

## ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES. Part III. Land Birds from Sparrows to Thrushes. By Edward Howe Forbush. Issued by authority of the [Massachusetts] Legislature, 1929, and distributed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth (Room 118, State House, Boston). Pp. i-*xl*viii+1-466. Col. pls. 63-93 (30). Figs. 68-97. Distribution maps, 17, text figs. 23, and a portrait of Mr. Forbush as a frontispiece. Price, \$5.00.

This volume forms the third and concluding one of the series. The preceding volumes were reviewed in the *WILSON BULLETIN* for March, 1926 (*XXXVIII*, pp. 60-61) and for June, 1928 (*XL*, pp. 118-119). Before the last volume was published the author passed away, so that the entire work now fittingly becomes a monument to the life work and memory of Mr. Forbush, not alone in his native state, but in the scientific world in general.

The present volume contains a biography of Mr. Forbush by Dr. John B. May, upon whom also rested the general editorial responsibility for the entire volume. Volume III treats of all of the sparrows and of all of the families on to the end of the present A. O. U. Check-List. The text follows the same plan of the preceding volumes, and we need not repeat the comments made in our earlier reviews of this work. The third volume contains the indexes for the three volumes.

The three volumes contain ninety-three colored plates, thirty of which are in the present volume. Of the latter seven are by Fuertes, the remainder are by Brooks. This series of plates alone will make the work useful to students beyond the territory covered by the text.

No ornithological work since Coues' *Key* impresses us as being so generally useful to the increasing group of amateur ornithologists as this one by Forbush, taking into consideration description, illustration, and cost. It is a magnificent piece of work, for which the State of Massachusetts may be proud, and the rest of us grateful.—T. C. S.

BIRD SONG. By Aretas A. Saunders. New York State Museum Handbook No. 7, Albany, N. Y., 1929. Pp. 1-202. Price, 75 cents.

This booklet is issued as one of the "handbooks" of the New York State Museum. It may be considered monographic in the range of the treatment of the subject of bird song, though it may not be so complete in reference to the literature and in the bibliography. The appended bibliography is a very useful one, nevertheless. It would be superfluous to attempt in a review to outline the subject matter; for a glance at the table of contents suggests that almost any topic concerning bird song is discussed. The author has given considerable study to the various methods of representing bird song graphically, and the pages on this subject will doubtless be of interest to many. We judge this booklet to be among the most readable and interesting ornithological papers which have recently appeared, being devoid of technicality, yet comprehensive and scientific.—T. C. S.